

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 14, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 137

Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan

January 16, 2013

An act to amend Section 33540 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 137, as amended, Buchanan. Pupil instruction: civics.

Existing law requires the Instructional Quality Commission to review and revise, as necessary, the course requirements in the history-social science framework to ensure that minimum standards for courses in American government and civics include certain matters.

This bill would additionally require the commission, when revising the history-social science framework, to ensure that the course requirements include teaching pupils how to interact, in a practical manner, with state and local governmental agencies and representatives to solve problems and to petition for changes in laws and procedures, and that these course requirements are included in all history and social science course and grade levels, as appropriate. The commission would also be required, whenever the framework is revised, to receive input from civics learning experts, for the purpose of integrating civics learning content, concepts, and skills with the standards established by the State Board of Education in core curriculum areas at all appropriate

grade levels, and to consider how civics and learning instruction include the application of that content.

The bill would make a statement of legislative intent with regard to the subsequent history-social science framework.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 33540 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 33540. (a) The state board and the department shall request
4 that the commission review and revise, as necessary, the course
5 requirements in the history-social science framework developed
6 by the History-Social Science Curriculum Framework and Criteria
7 Committee of the state board to ensure that minimum standards
8 for courses in American government and civics include sufficient
9 attention to teaching pupils how to interact, in a practical manner,
10 with state and local governmental agencies and representatives to
11 solve problems and to petition for changes in laws and procedures
12 and that these course requirements are also included in all history
13 and social science courses and grade levels, as appropriate.
14 (b) Whenever the history-social science framework is revised
15 as required by law, the commission shall do all of the following:
16 (1) Receive input from civics learning experts, including civics
17 education program providers, associations of civics educators, and
18 organizations dedicated to research on civics learning, for the
19 purpose of integrating civics learning content, concepts, and skills,
20 at all appropriate grade levels, with the standards established by
21 the state board in core curriculum areas, as specified in Section
22 60605.
23 (2) Consider how civics and history instruction, at all appropriate
24 grade levels, includes, in addition to the acquisition of content
25 knowledge, the application of that content to develop the
26 competence and skills needed for civic engagement.
27 (3) Ensure that the following historical documents are
28 incorporated into the framework, as appropriate:
29 (A) The Declaration of Independence.
30 (B) The United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.
31 (C) The Federalist Papers.

1 (D) The Emancipation Proclamation.

2 (E) The Gettysburg Address.

3 (F) George Washington's Farewell Address.

4 (c) *It is the intent of the Legislature, for purposes of only the*
5 *history-social science framework that is revised subsequent to the*
6 *effective date of the act amending this section, that the*
7 *requirements imposed pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of*
8 *subdivision (b) may be satisfied under the framework adoption*
9 *procedures currently being utilized by the department as of January*
10 *1, 2014.*

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